CLAIMS

1. A method in a communication network having a number of
nodes connected to the same link, the capacity of the
5 link being divided into frames which in turn are divided
into time slots, comprising:
    a procedure for informing each node on the link of
which nodes that are connected to the link and which
slots that it has access to;
10   a verifying procedure for subsequently verifying
that information separately held by said nodes is not
inconsistent regarding the nodes' right to allow sending
of data in said slots; and the step of
    disabling said verifying procedure from producing a
15 positive verification during transition periods at which
different nodes on the link risk having inconsistent link
data.

2. A method according to claim 1, said transition periods
20 starting each time when determining that new link data is
present and ending each time when determining that other
nodes on the link has become aware of said new link data.

3. A method according to claim 1, said disabling being
25 performed during transition periods at which new link
data occurs, said link data being of a type that diffe-
rent nodes participating in said verifying procedure use
as a basis for determining their input to said verifying
procedure.
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4. A method according to claim 1, said transition periods
including periods at which new link data occurs defining
which nodes that are connected to the link.

35 5. A method according to claim 1, said transition periods
including periods at which new link data occurs defining
which nodes that have ownership of which slots, said

ownership referring to the respective node's right to allow sending of data in said set of slots.

6. A method according to claim 1, said verifying procedure comprising a node on the link sending a request message to the other nodes on the link asking for verification referring to said other nodes' information on their access to a slot, and each of said other nodes responding thereto by sending a reply message to said a node informative of their respective information on their access to said slot.

7. A method according to claim 6, said verifying procedure comprising a node on the link sending a request message to all other nodes on the link asking for verification referring to said other nodes' information on their access to a slot, and each of said other nodes responding thereto by sending a reply message to said a node informative of their respective information on their access to said slot.

8. A method according to claim 6, said disabling of said verifying procedure including at least one node receiving such a request message refraining from sending such a reply message in response thereto.

9. A method according to claim 6, said disabling of said verifying procedure including at least one node receiving such a request message refraining from sending such a reply message in response thereto, to the extent said reply message indicates no obstacle for the node that sent the request message to put said slot into use.

10. A method according to claim 6, said disabling of said verifying procedure including one or more nodes refraining from sending such request messages to other nodes on the link.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein said nodes are assigned ownership of a respective set of slots, said ownership referring to the respective node's right to allow sending of data in said set of slots.

12. A method according to claim 11, said verification procedure being initiated repeatedly by a node with respect to all slots it has been assigned ownership of to verify that no other node considers itself to have access to said slots, such a verification being a prerequisite for allowing sending of data in said slot.

13. A method according to claim 11, said verification procedure being initiated at least once by a node after each change in what slots the node is assigned ownership of with respect to all slots that it has been assigned ownership of to verify that no other node considers itself to have access to said slots, such a verification being a prerequisite for allowing sending of data in said slot.

14. A method according to claim 11, said verification procedure being initiated at least once by a node after each change in what slots the node is assigned ownership of with respect to all new slots that it has been assigned ownership of and did was not assigned ownership of prior to said change, to verify that no other node considers itself to have access to the new slots, such a verification being a prerequisite for allowing sending of data in said slot.

15. A method according to claim 11, wherein control of the allocation of write access to a slot includes the right to allocated said slot for use by a communication channel that is handled by the node as well as the right to the temporary allow another one of said nodes to use said slot.

16. A method according to claim 15, said verification procedure being initiated repeatedly by a node with respect to all slot that it is assigned ownership of and

5   that it has temporarily other ones of said nodes to use, to verify whether or said other ones of said node are still considering themselves allowed to use said slots.

17. A method according to claim 16, said a node regarding

10   a slot, which it has allowed another node to use, as free for said a node to again allow for use as desired, if the result of said verification procedure state that no node on the link other than the said a node considers itself allowed to use said slot.

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18. A method according to claim 1, said verification procedure being used to verify that no two or more nodes regard themselves as free to use, or put into use, the same time slot for sending data.

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19. A method according to claim 1, said disabling including each individual node on said link also, when disabling said verifying procedure for said link, disabling any corresponding verifying procedures that the

25   node participates in with respect to other links that the node is connected to.

20. A method according to claim 1, said disabling comprising each one of said nodes disabling said verifying

30   procedure from producing a positive verification when determining that new link data is present and discontinuing its disabling when receiving a link data message confirming other the new link data.

35   21. A method according to claim 1, said disabling comprising:

each one of said nodes disabling said verifying procedure from producing a positive verification when determining that new link data is present, and discontinuing its disabling when receiving a link data message, originating from a master node on the link, confirming the new data; and

said master node disabling said verifying procedure from producing a positive verification when determining that said new link data is present, transmitting said link data message confirming the new data to other nodes on the link, and discontinuing its disabling when receiving acknowledgement that all nodes have received said link data message.

22. A method according to claim 21, said link data message originating from said master node and being circulated among the nodes connected to said link until it again reaches the master node, thus forming said acknowledgement.

23. A method according to claim 22, each node refraining from forwarding said link data message if the information contained therein is inconsistent with the node's own link information.

24. A method according to claim 22, each node, if receiving said link data message and finding the information contained therein to be is inconsistent with the node's own link information, sending an inconsistency message informative of the inconsistency to the master node.

25. A method according to claim 24, said master node, if receiving such an inconsistency message, resending a new link data message including link data that have been modified to eliminate the detected inconsistency.